

November 1986

# TWIN CITIES ATARI INTEREST GROUP

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President: Steve Ingalsbe (452-7196) Vice President: Tom Green  
Treasurer: Dick Johnson Secretary: Paul Franson  
Newsletter Editor: Cory Johnson (473-4190)  
Newsletter Co-Editor: Dave Stengel  
Membership Chairman: Nathan Block (922-8012)

## Membership Renewal

You may renew your membership at the general meeting, or send a check for \$15.00 (made out to "TAIG"), and on a separte piece of paper, your name, address and phone number to...

Nathan Block  
2656 Georgia Ave. South  
St. Louis Park, Mn. 55426

## Newsletter Exchange

If you represent another Atari Users Group that wishes to exchange newsletters, please mail a copy of your latest newsletter to Cory Johnson 1835 Shadyview Circle, Plymouth, Mn. 55447

## Article submission

Articles should be submitted in standard text files (Atari Writer, Hometext, Speedscript).

If you don't own a wordprocessor, you can enter an article into BASIC using REM statments. Or, send legibly written or typed text (make any schematics legible also, we can't reprint what we can't read) to

Cory Johnson 1835 Shadyview Circle, Plymouth, MN. 55447  
Dave Stengel 3230 Shadyview Lane, Plymouth, MN. 55447

Articles may also be dropped off at

Wizard's Work 18th and 36th, New Hope, MN.

If you wish, you can also upload your article to the BBS. Leave a message to the sysop stating that the upload was an article. The BBS number is 612/522-2687

## Inside:

Presidents notes	Pg. 2	Block lister	Pg. 2
New bylaws	Pg. 3	DOS XL review	Pg. 4
October minutes	Pg. 5	Sysop notes	Pg. 5
138XE fix	Pg. 5	Screen Plot review	Pg. 6
Editors notes	Pg. 7	Meeting location	Pg. 7

This has been a pretty good month for us. The highlight was the presentation of 3 computer systems to the Minneapolis Childrens Hospital. A lot of people pulled together to make this work, and I would like to thank them all. Atari donated 3 65XE systems complete with 1050 disk drives and XM801 printers; Target stores donated 3 Commodore color monitors; and Hi-Tech Expressions donated copies of their software, which included Card Ware, Party Ware, Jingle Disk, and Holiday Print paper. Hi-Tech also had several representatives present including Martha Schriver and Greg Gerard. From the hospital, the following people attended:

Beth Bennett - Chairman of the board of trustees

Deborah Schlick - Public Relations

Nancy Haskin - MCMC Foundation

David Miller - Administration

and many more that I didn't have a chance to meet. (I'm sorry for any names that I left off the list, I tried to get them all).

From our own group, the following people showed up and pledged to help out the Hospital staff in any way they could:

Steven Ingalsbe - President

Tom Green - Vice-president

Dick Johnson - Treasurer

Bill Sommers - ANALOG DOM

Carl Hartness

Chuck Grimsby

Nathan Block

Bruce Haug - President of SPACE

Any member who would be interested in helping out, either in person or over the phone, please let us know. Also, if you have any programs that you would like to donate (originals or public domain only), please give them to one of the officers and we will get them to the kids.

Other news: Tom is working on the BBS again. Every year when the first cold spell hits, he locks himself in the computer room with a case of Coke and 5 lbs. of M&Ms. He has already added some nice features (see him article for more info) and we are expecting more improvements from him. If you have anything that you would like to see added or changed, call the BBS and tell us about it. We may not add all of your ideas, but we will consider them all. The calls per day picked up a little bit this month but it is still lower than we would like. Let's try to keep its usage up!

Well, thats it for now. See you at the next meeting November 23, 1986 (moved up because of the Holiday).

My first computer was one of those discounted Timex-Sinclair 1000's that were marked way down to \$30 in, I think, the Christmas season of 1984. A whopping 16K Rampack and three cassette programs were thrown in. About the size of a paperback novel, it had a membrane keyboard that required the hands of a two-year-old or else the very deliberate hunt-and-peck method of typing. Still, I quickly got hooked, as most of us did, on making my tiny giant do what I wanted it to do. Eventually I graduated to the Atari 600XL (with a whopping 64K Rampack this time!). I love my Atari, but there are features of the homely little Timex that I miss.

One of these features was it's ability to list a block of program lines from a given point in a program to the end by commanding "LIST 100". No need to use the longer "LIST 100, 30000" or whatever the bottom line number is, as we do on the Atari.

About a week ago I was fooling around with a little program and I was frequently adjusting the values in a subroutine near the bottom of the listing, and I quickly got tired of the Atari way of doing it.

Suddenly the great light of simplicity flickered. I added a line at the top of the program that gave me a new shorthand for the task:

```
1 TOP=10:LOOP=100:LAST=1520
```

```
10 REM Program goes here
```

```
100 REM Subroutine named LOOP
```

```
1520 REM Last line of the program
```

Now all I has to do was to LIST TOP, LAST to list the whole listing, or LIST LOOP, LAST to give me the subroutine LOOP. Of course, I could stop the listing at any point with the CONTROL/1 or BREAK. Simple but sweet!

One note...the Atari won't let you use the variable name "END" because it's a reserved Basic command name. I chose LAST because it's short and easy to remember. Y7know, my little old Timex would have allowed me to use "END" as a variable name, but I guess you can't have everything!

#### 1027 Printer Woes

My Atari 1027 printer suffers from a problem I haven't been able to conquer. Maybe you know how to fix it.

Apparently the "daisy drum" puts too much pressure on the paper. I get deep impressions in the paper around each letter. I also get light printings of garbage characters between the letters and in the blank spaces, especially "(", ")", and "s". I've tried cleaning the wheel and the pressure plate, with no improvement.

If you know anything about this problem, please call Dan Farmer at 545-1628

BY-LAWS  
of the  
Twin Cities Atari Interest Group

Proposed 11/1/86

Article 1  
NAME

1. The name of this organization shall be the "Twin Cities Atari Interest Group" or "TAIG".

Article 2  
OBJECT

1. The purpose of this organization is to promote a dissemination of information concerning the ATARI (TM) computers, and products related thereto, and to share the knowledge of members at large concerning their talents and information pertaining to computers, and the Atari 8 bit computers specifically.

Article 3  
OFFICERS

1. The elected officers of this organization shall be:

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer

2. Elected officers serve a term of one year. They are elected by a simple majority of the members attending the May meeting.

3. Appointed officers shall include:

Newsletter Editor  
Sysop  
Membership Chairman  
Disk Librarian  
Book Librarian

or any other position deemed necessary for the function of this organization.

4. Upon election of new officers, appointed officers may be reappointed or replaced at the president's discretion.

5. All officers, elected and/or appointed serve on the "board". The president shall preside over the board at meetings that he may call from time to time at his discretion.

6. Any officer, elected or appointed shall carry out his position as professionally as is possible, without using his position to influence personal or monetary gain. Any officer found (by another officer or member) to be misappropriating and/or misusing club funds, equipment, supplies or his position, or consistently failing to fill his duties, or overstepping his powers, in the case of an elected official, may be removed from office by a 2/3 vote of the members

attending the next meeting after proof of the officers actions is printed in the newsletter. In the case of an appointed officer, the President and/or the board may remove that officer from power without a membership vote, and a replacement will be sought from the ranks of the membership.

7. The duties of the officers are:

President- Preside over the monthly meetings. Appoint members to non-elected officer positions. Act as the final authority in any matters pertaining to the organization which cannot be resolved by membership vote or board action.

Vice President- To assist the president and stand in for the president in the president's absence. In addition, the Vice President shall function as the advertising manager for the newsletter, actively soliciting advertising for the newsletter, and working with the treasurer for purposes of billing.

Secretary- To record the relevant proceedings of the monthly meetings and prepare them to be published in the monthly newsletter, such publication being the official record of the organization's proceedings.

Treasurer- To maintain the organization's treasury and approve by virtue of his signature on checks all expenditures of the organization. To maintain a list of all the organization's tangible assets, along with the names of the members who have responsibility of such assets. To prepare monthly reports of the clubs assets and expenditures to be published in the newsletter. To comply with any tax requirements of any relevant government agency.

Newsletter Editor- To take the responsibility for production of the newsletter and any other TAIG publication.

Sysop- To manage and keep online the organization's BBS.

Disk Librarian- To take responsibility to maintain and compile a monthly public domain disk, and to keep archives of all past DOM's. These public domain disks shall be sold to members of TAIG ONLY.

Book Librarian- To take responsibility for the clubs books, to keep accurate records of which books are being held by which members. Books owned by TAIG shall be loaned to TAIG members ONLY.

8. In return for services rendered, officers shall not be required to pay dues during their term in office.

9. No elected officer shall hold the same position in the club for more than 2 full terms, though an officer may run or be appointed to a different position in the club.

a) The exception to the above being the President, who after his term(s) shall be appointed Sargent At Arms, and shall hold no elected office for one year after his term, though he may hold another appointed position.

10. The President may authorize the treasurer to cover

expenditures of TAIG money up to \$100 per month. The board as a whole, may authorize expenditures of up to \$500 per month. Any expenditures over \$500 must be authorized by a majority vote of the membership.

a) Exceptions to the above rule are costs of printing and mailing the newsletter, and the paying of the rental for the general meeting hall.

#### Article 4 MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership in the organization shall not be limited, and shall be granted without account of race, sex, or creed, except that membership shall require the payment of annual dues, the amount of which is currently \$15.00, but may be modified by a vote of the membership. Membership shall be for a period of one year from the date that dues are paid.

2. Members are expected to obey the organization's by-laws and rules.

3. Since membership in TAIG consists of all immediate family members, only one vote per paid membership is allowed.

#### Article 5 OFFICIAL POLICIES

1. Let it be known that this organization is officially against software piracy. No software piracy shall take place at the monthly meetings, through the club's BBS or at any TAIG function. Any member taking part in a pirating activity at a meeting will be asked to leave the meeting place, and the board shall take any action deemed necessary towards the offending member.

2. This organization shall not participate in or contribute to any political campaign or candidate for political office.

3. The organization shall not afford pecuniary gain, incidentally or otherwise, to its members, except that the organization shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered.

#### Article 6 DISSOLUTION

1. Upon dissolution, the assets of this organization shall be disbursed in such a manner as to comply with section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

#### Article 7 RULES & BY-LAWS

1. All rules enacted by either the board or vote of the membership and published in the newsletter shall be considered official and binding on the officers and the membership.

2. In the case of any conflicts between these by-laws and rules, these by-laws shall prevail.

3. These by-laws shall not be modified in any way as to conflict with the Articles of Incorporation. These by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the members present at a general membership meeting.

#### Article 8 UNMENTIONED POWERS

1. All powers, privialges, and rights not delegated by these by-laws shall be reserved for the general membership of the club.

**\* ALPHA-TECH \***  
**2901 WAYZATA BLVD**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55485**  
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Hwy 12  
Penn Ave

X

**HWY 100**

**Come in and see why Atari ST Computers are out-selling the others !!!!!.**

OSS DOSXL Review  
Carl Hartness

I don't know how widespread DOSXL from OSS is. I got it with my Indus GT drives and use it all the time. I have found several features very handy:

- It supports true double density, with 256 byte sectors.
- Its Synchronesh high transfer rate is twice as fast as Atari DOS.
- DOS can be called and resident commands used without saving BASIC files to MEM.SAV.
- With OSS supercartridges such as MAC/65, a special DOS loads underneath the cartridge, leaving more memory for program and assembly.
- Keyboard commands can be put into batch files.
- On bootup, a batch file named STARTUP.EXC will execute after AUTORUN.SYS.
- Files can be easily listed to screen or printer using the TYP command.
- Batch files are easily created using TYP E: <filespec>.

The only inconvenience I have found is that COPY is not resident, which means if I haven't included COPY.COM on the disk, I must swap to a system disk. However, Synchronesh offers a good alternative, by making it very fast to load a BASIC file and save it to another disk.



The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm.

Steve had no national news from Atari Corp.

Locally, Atari will be donating three 130 XE systems with 1050 disk drives, XMM 801 printers, and monitors to the Minneapolis Children's Hospital. The systems will be presented during a ceremony on November 7th at 11 am at the Children's Hospital. Software being donated includes Cardmaker from High Tech. Volunteers are needed to support these systems, and cash donations are being solicited to purchase new software titles. Persons who volunteer to support the software at the hospital will receive copies to familiarize themselves with the packages.

There is subscriber boycott of CompuServe in progress because of their new policy of claiming copyrights on all software uploaded by users. This copyright is supposedly retroactive to all software which has ever been uploaded. CompuServe's position is that all information on the service is there for their subscribers, and the subscribers cannot pass that information on to others without CIS's consent. This entire issue came about as a result of several sysops leaving CompuServe to join other information services; and taking extensive libraries of CIS software to the new services.

In an apparently unrelated development, Antic publishing will no longer post the Antic online board on CompuServe. Rumor has it that Antic will go online with another information service in the near future.

Bug lists for OSS's Basic XL and other products are available from OSS through a new service to their customers. TAIG will try to get these lists posted on the BBS.

This month's DOM (October) contains enough to necessitate two diskettes. Among the highlights:  
A Bloom County picture to dump to your printer

The Powerstar demo, which no one was able to download from the BBS

A Star Trek text game

A clock program

Car

A pre-release version of GEOS, a graphics oriented operating system

Lots of Parrot sound files

Finally, there was a demo of Epyx World Karate Championship.

The Taig/Space BBS has undergone some changes. I decided to make some improvements to the system to try to generate more interest in it. If we don't get a significant increase in use of the BBS, I will be taking the hard drive off the system. It makes no sense to have the thing spinning away 24 hours a day when we average only 8 calls a day (Excluding TAIG officers).

The problem with the password file getting cut off hasn't reared it's ugly head since I made a few changes in the program. So hopefully that's the last we'll see of that one.

The good news is the changes that were made. Whenever a file is uploaded, the uploader will be asked to enter a description of the file he/she is uploading. This way before you download a file, you can see the description that was left, allowing you to decide if the file is something you could use. The 8 character filenames no longer have to be totally descriptive of the file. When you look at the file information you are also given the number of bytes in the file (Approximate), the number of single density sectors, the date the file was uploaded, the number of times the file has been downloaded, and the transfer time at the current baud rate.

The second improvement was the installation of a method to read all new messages on all messages, with a single keystroke. From the main menu, if you type Z N the BBS will read ALL new messages.

I don't know why the BBS doesn't see more use. The system is FAST, has alot of storage space, is more advanced and reliable (I think) than any of the other Atari BBS's. Although maybe I'm prejudice towards the Taig/Space BBS.

Anyways, that's about it. If anyone has an idea for improvements for the BBS let me know.

If it won't run on the 130XE...

by Carl Hartness

If a disk-based machine language program won't run on your XE, one problem may be that it checks location \$07 for a right cartridge. It will expect a zero, but the Rev C OS ROM now uses that location as a flag for direct connect Atari modems, and initializes it to a non-zero number.

The checking code is usually located in the boot sector or shortly after the INIT or RUN address of the main program. Look for one of two sequences:

```
LDA $06    or    LDA $06
BNE X      ORA $07
LDA $07    BNE Y
BEQ Y      RTS
X RTS      Y (program)
Y (program)
```

To fix, use a disk editor to change the \$07 operand to \$06. Two programs I have fixed using this method are FROGGER by SEGA, and a disassembler from STERRN.

Screen Plot  
From Antic Software  
by Cory Johnson

The Atari 1020 plotter is rapidly falling in price, it can now be had for around \$30 dollars mail order. That's about half of what I paid for mine. So, for \$30, if you decide that a 40 column printer will meet your needs, or it will serve as a second printer. You buy it, what do you do with it?

You certainly can't write term papers with it, and the software it comes with is on cassette. Hmm, was it such a good deal after all?

Yes!

In a previous newsletter, I reviewed "Print 'n Draw" by Terrific Software. It seemed to be THE package for the 1020. It contained a text editor, a banner generator, a pie chart generator, and a graphics dump. The only problem I found with it was that it only dumped "Graphic Magician" pictures. Neat, it came up with around 25 pictures, but I didn't own "Graphic Magician" at the time, so I couldn't make my own graphics.

Screen Plot besides dumping Koala pad and Atari touch tablet files, also dumps Atari light pen files, Atari Paint files, Rambrandt, Micropainter, and Atari World files (I'm not sure what Atari World is, but that option allows you to dump graphics 8 screens).

Screen Plot supports the 1020's color plotting, and allows you to manipulate the colors of the picture before you print it out. That's a nice feature, since the 1020 is a slow machine. Plots take anywhere from 5 to 30 minutes depending upon thier complexity. Graphic 8 screens take substantially longer than Atari paint (graphic 7) screens.

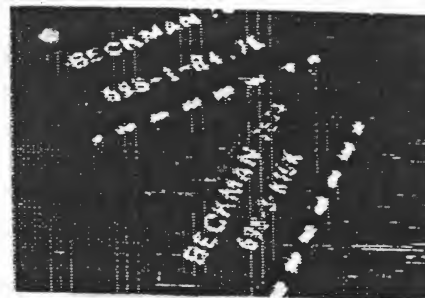
Screen plot allows 2 different size plots, 2 different proportions for the printout, either screen proportion or plotter proportion, and it also allows multiple superimposed plots, you can dump 1 picture on top of another.

Screen plot is very easy to use, it's menu driven, and needs only the input of the letter or number of the function you wish to use.

Besides supporting the 1020 plotter, it also supports the Radio Shack GCP-115, Mannesman Tally Pixy 3, and Sweet Pea plotters.

If you own the 1020, or one of the other plotters listed, Screen Ploy is well worth the \$12.95. It's sold through the Antic catalog.

The following are pictures dumped with screen plot. They were dumped in black and white for printing in the newsletter.



More info on the  
1020...

If you've had trouble finding paper that fits into the 1020, Atari 822 thermal paper will also work (the coating on the paper doesn't seem to matter). The 1020 takes 4 7/16" paper.

If you are having trouble finding pens, Panasonic RP-K422 pens work fine in the 1020. The only drawback I've found is the lack of color in the pens. They come in 4 packs, 2 of the pens are black, and 2 are white (I guess they are used in a Panasonic self correcting printer).

The white pens make a washed out shade of grey when used.

If anyone knows where to find colored 1020 pens or non-thermal paper, please let me know.



Editors Notes  
Cory Johnson

As you've probably noticed, I went back to compressed type. By popular demand, I had tried the normal type size, but it was tough to stuff anything into our allotted space, since that cut it down by more than half. The major complaint was it was hard to read. Hmm. perhaps if one sits in a lighted room and holds the newsletter approx. 1 to 2 feet from the eyes, it will be readable.

Actually, I was glad to hear it was hard to read. I was wondering if anyone read it. By our over abundance of articles (sarcasm) I could never be too sure.

Dave Stengel created the WOMBAT computer for us. Not only has he written quite a few articles for us, co-sysoped, co-edited, and run the DOM for us, he has also contributed much original artwork (remember the 528 Ice Tea?). I'm happy to say, that contrary to prior reports, he hasn't left the group, he just doesn't have time to be responsible for all the positions he currently held. He is still helping me cut and paste the newsletter.

Nathan Block, our new Membership Secretary, also wrote an article about the rejuvenation of TA06, unfortunately, we ran out of space this issue. It'll appear next month. I think Nathan will be very helpfull in breathing new life into the club.

By the next newsletter, I should have Paperclip, (cross your fingers) this means that I will be using a spell checker. As you've noticed, I have trouble proofreading... Papaerclip should help.

#### BYLAWS

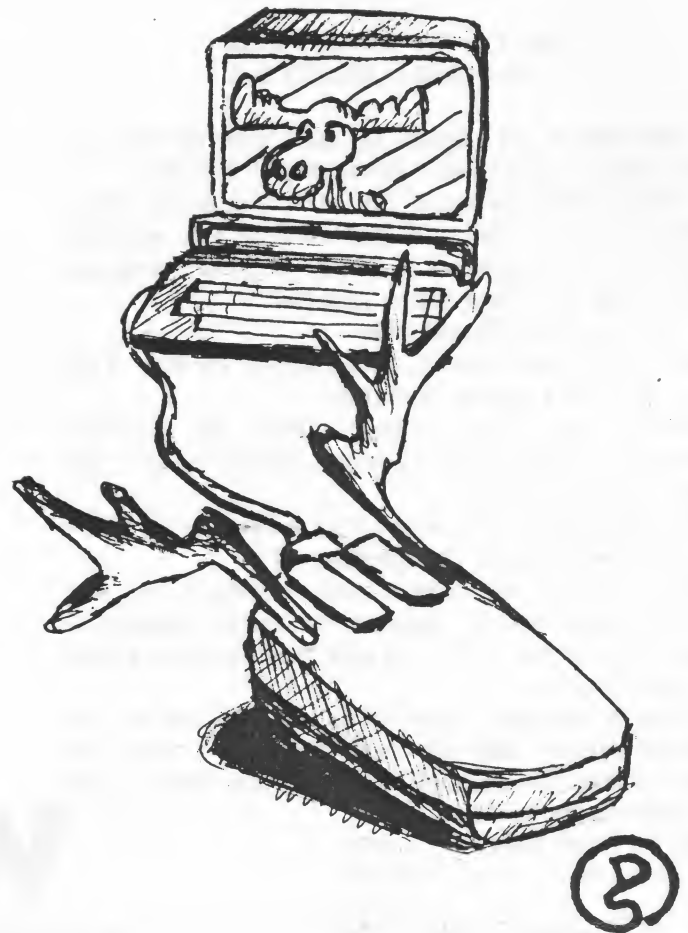
As I hope you've noticed, the propsed new Bylaws of TA16 have been published this month. They will be voted on at the meeting, so please read them, and voice any objections at the meeting. If they pass at the meeting, we have to republish them in the December and have a second vote for the final ratification (state law). Hopefully, by 1987 we'll know what's happening.

Oops...

In a past newsletter, I credited Chuck Grimsby with the LIFE articles and sample programs. Sorry. It was actual Carl Hartness who submitted them. I guess that's what happens when everything that I don't have stored on disk is on very small scraps of paper. I suddenly am wondering if I have it backwards again...

Just where do you guys meet?

TA16 meets normally the last Sunday of each month (this month it's a week early due to the holiday) at the St. Louis Park Recreation Center (see map at right) 5805 West 36th Street. St. Louis Park Mn.

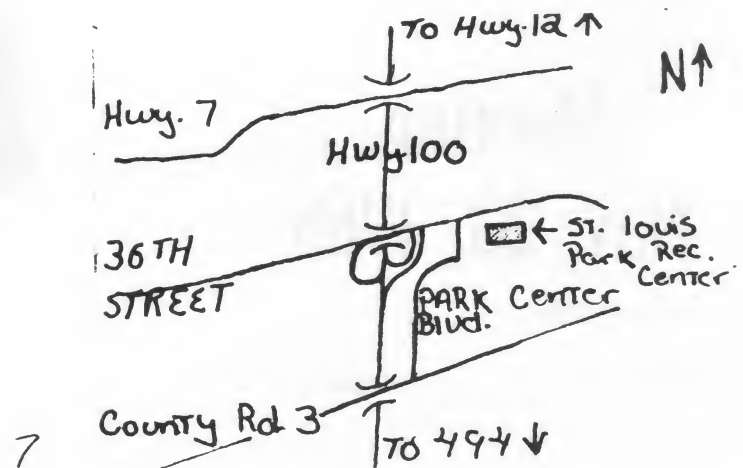


#### The NEW WOMBAT 26EE.S.

A bold leap into the personal computer market, the WOMBAT PC is the very latest in current tecnology. Totally software compatible with the Adam computer system, 5200 game cartridges, and most programable calculators, it brings the power of computing into your home for less than \$4000.00 (suggested retail is \$3999.99).

The WOMBAT is very user friendly, it incorporates pull down windows, shades, and curtains. The WOMBAT uses the JAM operating system, and is entirely moose driven.

The WOMBAT 26EE.S., the future is in here somewhere...



**What's New for the Atari 8 bit  
by the Wizard of Wizard's Work**

The Atari 8 bit computer is still alive and well, so don't forget to give it as a Christmas gift this year.

Atari 130XE Computers & Atari 1050 disk drives are in stock at Wizard's Work. If you purchase both machines, Wizard's Work will give you a present of 2 Atari programs, worth \$49.00 (E.T. Phone Home & Timewise).

Exciting new 8 bit software:

Now on disk from Datasoft, Pole Position, Pac-Man, & Dig Dug. Three old & popular favorites.

Datasoft has also released three new programs. Crosscheck, The Never Ending Story & "Theater Europe. All appear to be top sellers.

Epyx has come out with an exciting new program for the 8 bit called World Karate Championship.

Also, add two new Infocom text adventures to your Christmas shopping list. Moonmist and Leather Goddesses of Phobos (not for the timid!) are both excellent and are bound to become classics.

Access & Micropose have triple packs, they've each combined three of their top selling programs for one low price. Access has combined Beach-Head, Beach-Head II, and Raid Over Moscow for \$19.95.

For the Flight Simulator II fans, we have the Atari Flight Simulator II program, and the new scenery disks in stock. Sorry, no Minneapolis airport yet.

For all of you with Epson printers and The Print Shop, we have red & Green ribbons, and beautiful fanfold Christmas stationary.

Some great gift ideas for that special computer enthusiast...

1. Document copy holder for ease of reading while typing in your Atari program. Just \$14.95.
2. Printer head cleaner kit for Epson RX & FX80 series. \$21.95.
3. Epson printer covers \$9.95.
4. Disk Page looseleaf 5.25" diskette holders. \$11.95.
5. Atari joysticks are \$9.00.

Don't forget Wizard's Work for all your Atari needs...

Wizard's Work is located in the Four Seasons Shopping Mall, a bright, beautiful shopping center in Plymouth, located on County Road 18 and County Road 9 west (just 1 mile north of our old location).

Open Monday-Thursday 11-7

Friday & Saturday 11-5:30

Call for directions. 559-4690

We are a full service Atari computer dealer and repair center.

# Wizard's Work

**your home computer center**



Twin Cities Atari Interest Group  
4309 Suncliff Drive  
Egan Mn 55122

## Meeting

# Nov 23, 1986

TAIG 7:00

NOTE THE DATE CHANGE!